

CLAIMS:

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1. A golf club which includes an adjustable shaft, in which the shaft comprises:
    - a. an inner shaft part,
    - b. an outer shaft part which receives an end of the inner shaft within it in a telescoping arrangement, and
    - c. a locking mechanism by which the inner and outer shaft parts can be locked together against relative axial and rotational movement, in which the locking mechanism comprises an inner tube part which has a split end and an outer tube part which can receive the split end of the inner tube part in a telescoping arrangement, and an expander which can be drawn into the split end of the inner tube part to cause it to become splayed, to engage the internal surface of the outer tube part.
  2. A golf club as claimed in claim 1, which includes an internal tube which is fastened within the outer shaft part and extends along the inside of the outer shaft part, the internal tube having a split end which is received within the inner shaft part in a telescoping arrangement, in which the internal tube provides the inner tube part of the locking mechanism, and the inner shaft part provides the outer tube part of the locking mechanism.
  3. A golf club as claimed in claim 1, which includes an internal tube which is fastened within the outer shaft part and extends along the inside of the outer shaft part, and in which the inner shaft part has a split end which is received within the internal tube in a telescoping arrangement, in which the internal tube provides the outer tube part of the locking mechanism, and the inner shaft part provides the inner tube part of the locking mechanism.
  4. A golf club as claimed in claim 1, in which the locking mechanism includes a control member for the expander, for controlling the position of the expander relative to the said split end.

5. A golf club as claimed in claim 4, in which the expander control member can be moved between a locked position in which the expander is withdrawn into the end of the inner tube part to cause its end to become splayed, and an unlocked position in which the expander is not located tightly within the splayed end of the inner tube part allowing the splayed end to relax from engaging the outer tube part.
6. A golf club as claimed in claim 5, in which the expander control member is biased towards the locked position by a deformable component acting against a stop.
7. A golf club as claimed in claim 4, in which the locking mechanism includes a resiliently deformable spring element which is deformed when the locking mechanism is in its locking position to place the expander control member under load.
8. A golf club as claimed in claim 7, in which moving the expander control member from the locked position towards the unlocked position involves increasing the strain imparted to the spring.
9. A golf club as claimed in claim 4, which includes a tension adjuster for setting the expander control member stress when the locking mechanism is in its locking position.
10. A golf club as claimed in claim 4, in which the locking mechanism is arranged so that the stress on the expander control member when the locking mechanism is in its locking position is at least about  $100 \text{ MN.m}^{-2}$ .
11. A golf club as claimed in claim 6, which includes a movable member which is connected to the expander control member, in which the stop restricts movement of the movable member from the locked position towards the unlocked position to movement in a single unlocking direction, the movable member being biased towards the stop when the expander control member is in the locked position.
12. A golf club as claimed in claim 11, in which the resiliently deformable component which biases the movable member towards the locking position is the expander control

member.

13. A golf club as claimed in claim 11, in which the movable member is threaded and is moved between the locked and unlocked positions by rotation.

14. A golf club as claimed in claim 11, in which the movable member can be rotated about an axis which is approximately parallel to the axis of the golf club shaft.

15. A golf club as claimed in claim 11, in which the movable member of the locking mechanism comprises an eccentric shaft which is mounted for rotation within a bore in the head of the expander control member.

16. A golf club as claimed in claim 15, in which the axis of rotation of the eccentric shaft is approximately perpendicular to the axis of the golf club shaft.

17. A golf club as claimed in claim 1, in which the locking mechanism can be operated from outside the outer shaft part.

18. A golf club as claimed in claim 1, in which the locking mechanism is arranged so that it is operated from about the end of the outer shaft part remote from the inner shaft part.

19. A golf club as claimed in claim 1, which includes a separate tool for operating the locking mechanism.

20. A golf club as claimed in claim 1, in which the end of the inner shaft part is splayed so that the inner shaft part provides the inner tube part of the locking mechanism, being received in the end of the outer shaft part which provides the outer tube part of the locking mechanism and expanded by withdrawal of the expander.

21. A golf club as claimed in claim 20, in which the locking mechanism includes a control member for the expander, for controlling the position of the expander relative to the

split end of the inner shaft part.

22. A golf club as claimed in claim 21, in which the expander control member can be moved between a locked position in which the expander is withdrawn into the end of the inner shaft part to cause its end to become splayed, and an unlocked position in which the expander is not located tightly within the splayed end of the inner shaft allowing the splayed end to relax from engaging the outer shaft part.

23. A golf club as claimed in claim 22, in which the expander control member is biased towards its locked position by a deformable component acting against a stop.

24. A golf club as claimed in claim 22 in which the locking mechanism includes a resiliently deformable spring element which is deformed when the locking mechanism is in its locking position to place the expander control member under load.

25. A golf club as claimed in claim 24, in which moving the expander control member from the locked position towards the unlocked position involves increasing the strain imparted to the spring.

26. A golf club as claimed in claim 24, which includes a tension adjuster for setting the expander control member stress when the locking mechanism is in its locking position.

27. A golf club as claimed in claim 23, which includes a movable member which is connected to the expander control member, in which the stop restricts movement of the movable member from the locked position towards the unlocked position to movement in a single unlocking direction, the movable member being biased towards the stop when the expander control member is in the locked position.

28. A golf club as claimed in claim 27, in which the resiliently deformable component which biases the movable member towards the locking position is the expander control member.

29. A golf club as claimed in claim 27, in which the movable member is threaded and is moved between the locked and unlocked positions by rotation.
30. A golf club as claimed in claim 27, in which the axis of rotation of the movable member is approximately parallel to the axis of the golf club shaft.
31. A golf club as claimed in claim 20, in which the locking mechanism can be operated from outside the inner shaft part.
32. A golf club as claimed in claim 20, in which the locking mechanism can be operated from about the end of the inner shaft part which is remote from the outer shaft part.
33. A golf club as claimed in claim 20, which includes a separate tool for operating the locking mechanism.
34. A golf club as claimed in claim 20, which includes means for adjusting the effective length of the expander control member.